

BRIERLEY-HILL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

◇ ANNUAL REPORTS ◇

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1895.

---

BRIERLEY-HILL :

PRINTED BY FORD AND ADDISON, "ADVERTISER" OFFICE.

1896.



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CHAIRMAN ... COUNCILLOR J. FISHER.

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**SANITARY COMMITTEE.**

CHAIRMAN ... COUNCILLOR M. ROLLINSON.

Councillor I. BARKER,	Councillor T.G. DRINKWATER,
„ J. BENTON,	„ T. S. INSULL,
„ T. CLULEE,	„ E. W. PEARSON,
„ D. W. COOPER,	„ J. SKIDMORE,
„ G. J. COOPER,	„ L. A. TAYLOR.
„ H. WEBB,	

**Medical Officer of Health :**

H. D'ARCY ELLIS, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

**Clerk :**


WILLIAM WALDRON, Esq.

**Analyst :**

E. W. T. JONES, F.I.C.

**Sanitary Inspector :**

JOHN ALDEN.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Brierley-Hill Urban  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

During the past year the number of deaths registered was 224, of which 117 were males and 107 females.

The population is estimated at 11,937.

The death-rate for the year 1895 is therefore 18·7 per thousand of the population.

The death-rate for the preceding year 1894 is 16·8 per thousand of the population.

The number of births during the year is 445, of which 223 were males and 222 females.

The birth-rate is 37·2 per thousand of the population ; that of the year 1894 being 38·8 per thousand of the population.

The ages at which the deaths took place during the year are as follows :—

Under 1 year of age	... 77	15 years and under 25	... 6
1 year and under 5 years..	31	25 years and under 65	... 52
5 years and under 15	... 6	65 years and upwards	... 52

Twelve inquests were held during the year. The verdicts were—  
“Natural causes,” 6 ; “Accident,” 4 ; “Found drowned,” 1 ;  
“Suicide,” 1.



Comparative Tables of the Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Zymotic Death-rate, with corresponding rates taken from the Report of the County Medical Officer, for the year 1894 :—

	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population.	Death-rate per 1,000 of Population.	Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 of Population.	Date.
Brierley-Hill ...	37·2	18·7	2·13	1895.
Brierley-Hill ...	34·8	16·8	1·92	1894.
County of Stafford				
Urban ...	35·4	16·5	1·68	1894.
England and Wales ...	29·6	16·6	1·76	1894.
Large Towns in England ...	30·6	18·0	2·43	1894.

Some other tables are appended to this report which I hope will be found useful.

At Table I. you will note that there are thirteen deaths from Whooping Cough and twelve deaths from Diarrhoea, which add considerably to the Zymotic death-rate.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### SCARLATINA.

Known cases, 82 ; Deaths, 0.

This epidemic has been going for the past three years. During that period 188 cases have been notified. In 1893, 32 cases and one death ; 1894, 74 cases, 5 deaths ; and 1895, 82 cases and no death. The epidemic is of a remarkably mild character, but is very persistent. Reference to Table III. appended will show you that only one month throughout the year has escaped notification.

It has been chiefly prevalent amongst children attending the elementary schools. In August I obtained your sanction to close the Moor-street



Infant School; but this was not carried out as the holidays were at hand, and by a process of exclusion we were enabled to arrest its progress.

In October and November it got into Bent-street Infant School, and in that case, with your consent, I closed the schools for one month. This again arrested its progress.

During the three years of this epidemic I have closed schools on four occasions. The closing has arrested the disease for a sufficient period to warrant such action in the future. Certain measures of exclusion are however necessary on the re-opening of the schools, the co-operation of the teachers having been solicited and readily assented to.

As we have to isolate these cases at their homes, it is very difficult in most cases to do this efficiently. If we could have used the Isolation Hospital I have no doubt the disease would have been stamped out.

Three cases which had not been notified were discovered, but as no medical advice had been sought, and it did not appear there had been any wilful attempt to avoid the Act, no proceedings were taken.

Your Inspector visited all of the infected houses, printed instructions were left, disinfectants freely supplied, and after recovery the houses were cleansed and fumigated, and the bedding and clothing treated at the steam disinfecter.

### ENTERIC FEVER.

Known cases, 7; Deaths, 1.

In February, two cases; one at Level-street, and one at Ten-house Row, Albion-street. South Staffordshire Water Co.'s water was supplied to both properties. Defects of drainage were pointed out which have since received attention. In March, one case at the same house, Level-street. In June, one case at Pearson-street (S. S. W. Co.'s water). In October, one case in Albion-street (S. S. W. Co.'s water); and in November, two cases, one at Delph and one at Fenton-street (S. S. W. Co.'s water). In all these cases nuisances were pointed out and attended to.

### MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Known case, 1; Death, 1.

This case occurred at Winwood's property, Parkes-street. I had already pointed out the damp and insanitary condition of the house in October, 1893. The drainage is also very defective on this property.

The spouting has been remedied and there is now no water in the cellars ; but the drainage is still defective.

### **ERYSIPELAS.**

Known cases, 11 ; Deaths, 2.

### **PUERPERAL FEVER.**

Known case, 1 ; Death, 1.

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## **S E W E R A G E .**

Several special meetings have been held during the year, with a view to finding a solution of this question.

In 1894, Mr. Wilcox, Sanitary Engineer, drew up a report dealing with the sewerage of the whole district. This scheme has been under consideration, and on one occasion during the present year Mr. Wilcox attended a meeting and discussed the question with the Sewerage Committee. The mining operations which are constantly going on in the district is considered to be a great obstacle to the adoption of a complete sewerage scheme such as Mr. Wilcox advises.

Enquiries have also been conducted with the object of adopting a system which shall sufficiently purify the effluent water from the present filter beds and from any other filter beds which it may become necessary to put down, so as to render the effluent sufficiently pure to enter the canal at Moor Lane, and the brook at Delph, which runs into the river Stour. At present the Polarite scheme is under consideration. Mr. Candy, the engineer and manager of the Polarite Company, has attended one of the meetings of the Sewerage Committee and gone into the question with them.

Though no definite step has yet been taken, this important question has not been ignored. In face of the decided opinion of those amongst you who are competent to judge of the risk of subsidence from mining operations, it is no doubt necessary to proceed with caution, rather than hastily adopt an alternative scheme which may prove inefficient or even more costly than the larger scheme you have already before you.

## EXCREMENT REMOVAL.

This work is done by contract. The complaints brought to me, during the year, of delay and difficulty in getting the nuisances removed have been more urgent and numerous than I have ever known them to be in previous years.

The severe weather in the early part of the year, doubtless interfered with the regular and systematic emptying of the closets and ashpits. The change of contractors also caused some delay.

Facts were brought before your committee which showed that on some properties the nuisances had not been removed for six, and in some cases, even twelve months. Proper supervision and enquiry into the manner in which the contractor is carrying on the work should prevent such negligence as these statements reveal.

The offering of this most important department for tender every year is not to be commended, and I feel convinced the work will not be efficiently carried out whilst this system continues in operation. I would again respectfully urge upon your consideration the advantage of taking the work into your own hands. If it involves a greater cost, the work is better done, and the extra money is well expended for the benefit of the public health.

On many occasions during the year I have brought before the Sanitary Committee instances of the defective construction of the closets and ashpits.

The dilapidated, leaky, and wet condition of these closets and ashpits, is the most insanitary condition in our town. In these days of enlightened sanitary progress, such a thing as a constantly wet closet and uncovered ashpit should be unheard of. The difficulties and expense of removal of the nuisances are enormously increased where such defects exist. The necessity for using such an abomination as a sock cart in connection with a privy midden should not be tolerated.

I do not think there can be found a single instance where a properly constructed closet cannot be erected, and the contents kept dry.

The difficulty of clearing the ashpits is very considerably increased by the amount of rubbish thrown into them, such as bricks, bottles, etc. If a definite plan of construction were decided upon, with printed instructions for the builder, and enforced, some of the difficulty would be removed. The ashpit should not be too large, nothing but fine



riddled ashes should be thrown into it, and a separate receptacle should be provided for other kinds of rubbish. This separate receptacle could always be emptied in the daytime, the night work being thereby considerably reduced, or rather the actual amount of excremental nuisance removed being increased in a given time. By adopting this plan there would be much less nuisance, no saturation or pollution of the soil and atmosphere, and the cost of removal would decrease. Instead of the numerous "tips" scattered over the district, and about which there are such frequent complaints, it would be much better to destroy all the accumulated rubbish by fire. "Fire Destructors" have been established in other parts of the country, and I think it would be well for you to send a deputation to one of these places, to enquire into the cost and working of the apparatus. There are also several instances of houses with W.C.'s which have an intercepting cesspit between the W.C. and the sewer with an overflow pipe into the sewer. The cesspit is made water-tight, ventilated, and trapped. However well this may be done, the plan is to be condemned, and is an element of danger to the occupiers of the houses. It is also a distinct contravention of your Bye-laws (pages 61 and 62, clauses 86-88). It is true that since I called your attention to this fact, five years ago, the plan has been dropped; but I think those that are still in existence should be abolished. If under any circumstances a cesspool has to be sanctioned, the conditions laid down in Bye-law 86 should be strictly observed.

In the above remarks I am dealing with these nuisances as I find them, and endeavouring to put before you the conditions under which I think it is unsafe for them to continue.

It is necessary, however, that I should point out to you that this privy midden system is universally condemned, and wherever possible the water carriage system is taking its place. In your district the adoption of the water carriage system would involve a sewerage scheme. In the meantime you should deal with the existing circumstances, and if properly done, there is no reason why such closets cannot be converted into water closets, when the proper time for introducing that system arrives.

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### **GENERAL DEATH-RATE.**

Eleven deaths were due to Phthisis. Two of them were married women, three children under ten years, two beer retailers, one a carter, one miner, and two ironworkers.

Nine deaths from Cancer, 5 males and 4 females. Four of the males were ironworkers, the other a publican.

**Infant Mortality.**—This still continues high—77 deaths—26 being from premature birth, or insufficient vitality. Eight of the 77 deaths were due to whooping Cough, but the majority died in the first few weeks from their birth, from diseases affecting the digestive organs.

Amongst new cases of sickness, we had an extensive epidemic of Whooping Cough in the first quarter of the year, and in the third quarter an epidemic of Diarrhœa. All the twelve deaths from Diarrhœa occurred in children under five years of age. The very hot weather and abundance of fruit probably helped to produce the Diarrhœa; but I have little doubt it was increased in severity and more liable to become fatal, owing to the unsatisfactory way in which the night soil scavenging was carried out.

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## SANITARY NOTES.

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**The Isolation Hospital** is in good working order. No cases have been isolated from this district. It has been used for several months during the year by the Joint District of Quarry Bank, for the isolation of Enteric Fever cases.

**The Steam Disinfector** has been very useful for disinfecting clothing and bedding on 63 occasions.

**Water Supply.**—There has been no complaint of any deficiency in the Company's water supply. Five samples of well water have been analysed, three of which were condemned, and the Company's water ordered to be laid on.

Three Houses were declared unfit for habitation, and notices served. Two of these houses were closed.

**Unwholesome Food.**—Bad meat has been seized and condemned on three occasions and the vendors prosecuted and fined.

In one case, that of unwholesome ham and bacon, which was seized in a putrid condition in the market, on the 27th of September, the vendor was prosecuted and fined twenty-five pounds.

In another case, that of unwholesome beef, which was seized in the market, the vendor was convicted before the local magistrates, and fined ten pounds. This case was re-heard, on appeal, at the next Quarter Sessions at Stafford, and the conviction affirmed. Our thanks are due to Dr. Reid, the County Medical Officer, for the assistance he gave us at Stafford, when the appeal was heard and dismissed.

**Factory and Workshops Act.**—This Act is getting to be better understood. In my inspections, I have pointed out nuisances in and near the shops, and had no difficulty in getting them removed.

The Factory Inspector has on one occasion called my attention to a nuisance. I had this promptly removed. I have only come across one case of overcrowding, and this has since been remedied.

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. D'ARCY ELLIS.

*February 3rd, 1896.*

Area in Acres, 1027.      Population 1895, 11,937.      No. of Persons per Acre, 11'6.

Mortality from all Causes, distinguishing Deaths in Children under 5 Years.

T A B L E I.

	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fevers.				Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Rheumatic Fever.	Bronchitis & Pleurisy.	Pneumonia.	Phthisis.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All others.
					Typhus.	Typhoid.	Puerperal.	Continued.	Relapsing.											
Under 5 Years of Age	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	12	1	8	7	..	..	..	64
5 Years and upwards..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	23	1	11	20	6	53

REGISTERED BIRTHS.			REGISTERED DEATHS.			MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.					
MALES.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 Years and upwards.
223	222	445	117	107	224	77	31	6	6	52	52



# VITAL STATISTICS. TABLE II.

	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.	1886.	1885.
Birth Rate per 1000 of the Population ..	37.2	34.08	39.17	36.40	38.12	34.32	30.0	32.4	31.2	38.94	36.0
Total Death Rate per 1000 of the Population	18.7	16.08	18.99	20.3	17.83	20.9	18.0	16.9	18.6	16.7	19.5
Zymotic Death Rate .. ..	2.18	1.92	2.8	1.09	.0006	1.6	2.73	2.73	3.11	2.2	3.6
Rate of Infant Mortality estimated by measuring the proportion of children who died before attaining 1 year per 1000 of the Births registered during the same period ..	173	170	163	168	178	218	151	154	155	139	200

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Monthly Notifications.

T A B L E I I I .

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total. 1895.	1894.	1893.
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	39
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Membranous Croup ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Erysipelas ..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	2	2	..	2	1	11	11	17
Scarlatina ..	3	4	2	..	6	4	16	8	5	9	19	6	82	74	32
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	7	16	10
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
TOTAL ..	4	7	4		6	6	18	10	7	10	23	7	102	122	101



## SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

*Done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1895, in the Urban Sanitary District of Brierley-Hill.*

				Inspections and Observations made,	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling houses and Schools.	}	Foul Conditions ...	...	113	86	113
		Over-crowding ...	...	6	6	6
	}	Dairies and Milkshops ...	...	20	Inspected Quarterly	
		Cowsheds ...	...			
		Bakehouses ...	...			
		Slaughter-houses ...	...			
		Canal Boats...	...	107		
		Ash Pits and Privies	...	3094		
		Deposits of Refuse & Manure		5	2	2
		Water Closets	...	24		
House Drainage	}	Defective Traps ...	...	4		
		Other Faults ...	...	18		
		Water supply	...	15		
		Pigsties ...	...	6		
		Animals improperly kept	...	28		
		Smoke Nuisances	...	1	1	1
						Nos.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food				...	...	3
Samples of Water taken for Analysis				...	...	3
,, ,, Condemned as unfit for use				...	...	3
Precautions against Infectious Disease.						
Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or destroyed				...	...	63
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease				...	...	94

## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—List of Samples taken during 1895 with results.

No. of Sample.	Article.	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Extent of the Adulteration, (if any).	Results.
1	Whiskey	1		Genuine	
2	"		1	9·8% below staty. limit	Fined £2 and costs.
3	"		1	9·8% "	Fined £1 and costs.
4	"			4% "	Cautioned.
5	"			Genuine	
6	Gin	1		3·7% below staty. limit	Cautioned.
7	Butter	1		Genuine	
8	Milk	1		"	
9	Pepper	1		"	
10	Milk	1		"	
11 to 13	Butter	3		"	
14	Lard	1		"	
15 to 17	Butter	3		"	
18	Coffee	1		"	
19 to 21	Butter	3		"	
22	Milk	1		"	
23	Butter	1		"	
24 to 29	Milk	6		"	
30	"		1	56% of cream removed	Fined 5s. and costs.
31	"	1		Genuine	
32	Skim milk	1		"	

33 Milk	1		Genuine		
34 and } Skim milk	2		"		
35 Milk	1		"		
36 Bread	1		36 grains of alum per 4lb loaf		Fined £2 and costs.
37 Ground ginger	1		Genuine		
38 Ginger root	1		"		
39 Ground cinnamon	1		"		
40 Ground ginger	1		"		
41 Cloves	1		"		
42 Ground ginger	1		"		
43 Cream of tartar	1		10% below the B.P. test from Calcium Tartrate		Cautioned.
44 to } Bread	5		Genuine		
45 } "	1		30 grains of alum per 4lb loaf		Fined £2 and costs.
51 and } Butter	2		Genuine		
52 Bread	1		"		
53 and } Milk	2		"		
54 Bread	1		"		
55 and } "	1		"		
56 Bread	1		"		

H. VAN TROMP, INSPECTOR.



## Brierley-Hill Urban District Council.

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Mr. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report of work done for the year ending 31st December, 1895.

During the year, 185 notices have been served to abate nuisances arising from defective privies and ashpits, and all have been complied with.

The cases of overcrowding in the district have been six, all of which have been abated by notice.

The drainage in connection with 21 houses was found to be defective, and notices served. These have since been rectified by the laying of new drains or reconstruction of existing ones, and properly trapped.

In 28 cases animals were found kept either in the prohibited area or so as to be a nuisance. In each case notices have been served and found to be effective.

The dairies, cow sheds, and milk shops within the district number 20. These have been inspected periodically, and strict cleanliness has been observed. The same may be said of the 17 registered slaughterhouses, inspected also periodically.

The properties on which notice has been served to provide a supply of water is 24, and this number includes five cases in which the existing wells were polluted with animal or sewage matter. All notices have been complied with, and the South Staffordshire Water Company have laid their water on to a considerable number of houses of which no official complaints have been made.

The men in your Contractor's employ have visited 3,403 houses, 1,221 privies, and cleansed 1,873 ashpits, which has resulted in the



removal of 7,381 loads of night soil, and also have cleansed 16 water closets.

The Steam Disinfector has been of great use in the disinfecting of 63 lots of bedding and clothing after infectious diseases. 94 houses have been cleansed and lime-washed after infectious disease, and 113 houses were found in a filthy condition, and which have been limewashed.

107 canal boats have been inspected during the year. The general condition of the boats and their occupants has been everything that could be desired. There has not been one cause of complaint of want of cleanliness. Two infringements of the Act took place. One of the boats had no registration mark whatever to identify it in any way—this was remedied in three days after being discovered; and the other boat had no proper water vessel—this was remedied same day as discovered. There is but small cause for complaint in the want of cleanliness; many of the women being very neat and clean in their cabins. No case of overcrowding occurred during the year, and not a single case of infectious disease was notified as being on any of the boats. I have not been refused admittance to any boat, and it has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings against any of the boat people. The number of boats on the register is 200, and the number registered during the year being six. No registration has been rendered necessary by structural alteration in boats previously registered.

As regards magisterial proceedings, it has been necessary to proceed in three cases, viz.:—two cases of unwholesome meat and one for diseased hams.

In one case the owner and salesman were fined £5 each; in the second case the owner was fined £25 and costs, and the charge against salesman was withdrawn on payment of costs; and in the third case the owner was fined £10 and costs, and the two salesmen £5 each.

In the last case the owner gave notice of appeal, which was heard at Stafford Quarter Sessions on 1st January, 1896; but the appeal was dismissed with costs.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Chairman and the Members of the various Committees for the ready assistance which they have given to me in carrying out my duties during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. ALLDEN.







